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AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

[0005] The present invention addresses this and other problems by providing ~~dynamic~~ a dynamic page generation system in which the task of generating a portion of a web page associated with late-arriving service data may be deferred by the web server system, and offloaded to a page update handler executed by the web browser that requested the page. The page update handler may, for example, be a JavaScript function that is embedded within the page or downloaded to the browser within a library file. When the web server system receives a page request that involves a service request to a slow or potentially slow service, the web server system generates and serves a “deferred rendering” version of the web page that initially lacks the data from this service, but which includes most or all of the other visual elements of the web page. Preferably, a placeholder for the service data, such as a display object that may be populated by the page update handler, is initially included within the deferred rendering version of the page. This placeholder may be included at a prominent location, such as near the top of the visible page.